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BACKGROUND FACTS ON WOMEN WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

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DATA FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE MANPOWER REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DESCRIBE WOMEN WORKERS. IN 1966, THERE WERE 27.8 MILLION AMERICAN WOMEN WORKERS, AN INCREASE OF 4.2 MILLION SINCE 1960. OF ALL WORKERS, 36 PERCENT WERE WOMEN. NEARLY HALF OF ALL WOMEN 18 TO 64 YEARS OF AGE WERE WORKERS, AND THE MEDIAN AGE WAS 41. THREE OF FIVE WERE MARRIED AND LIVING WITH THEIR HUSBANDS. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION WAS HIGHEST AMONG DIVORCED WOMEN, 71 PERCENT, AND LOWEST AMONG WIDOWS, 28 PERCENT. OF THE 9.9 MILLION WOMEN WORKERS WHO HAD CHILDREN UNDER 18, THOSE WITH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ONLY, 47 PERCENT, WERE THE LARGEST GROUP. MEDIAN YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY WOMEN WORKERS 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN THE LABOR FORCE AND IN THE POPULATION WERE 12.3 AND 12.1 RESPECTIVELY. ABOUT 8.5 MILLION WOMEN WERE EMPLOYED IN CLERICAL AND 3.5 MILLION IN PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL JOBS. MORE THAN TWO OF FIVE OF ALL EMPLOYED WERE IN SERVICE INDUSTRIES. ABOUT THREE OF FOUR OF THE TOTAL WERE EMPLOYED FULL TIME. PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS RECEIVED A MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARY OF $5,574, BUT THE MEDIAN WAGE OR SALARY INCOME FOR ALL FULL-TIME WOMEN WORKERS IN 1965 WAS $3,823. THIS WAS 60 PERCENT OF THE MEDIAN FOR FULL-TIME MEN WORKERS. (FP)

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BACKGROUND FACTS ON WOMEN WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Number

There were 27.8 million women workers in the United States in 1966.1/ (Table 1) This was an increase of 1.2 million since 1965 and of 4.2 million since 1960. Thirty-nine percent of women 14 years of age and over were in the civilian labor force in 1966; women were 36 percent of all workers.

About 1.4 million, or 4.9 percent, of the women in the civilian labor force were unemployed in 1966. (Table 2) The unemployment rate among girls 14 to 19 years of age was 13.0 percent; among women 20 years of age and over, 3.8 percent. These rates were lower than in 1965 when they were 14.3 and 4.5 percent, respectively.

Age

The median (half above, half below) age of women workers in April 1966 was 41 years. (Table 3) Almost 3 out 5 women in the labor force in 1966 were 35 years of age or over, and almost 2 out of 5 were 45 years of age or over.

Nearly half (47 percent) of all women 18 to 64 years of age were workers in 1966. Highest labor force participation (52 percent) was among women 18 to 24 and 45 to 54 years of age. In contrast, only 1 out of 10 women 65 years of age and over and about 2 out of 10 girls 14 to 17 years of age were in the labor force.

Marital and Family Status

Of the 26.8 million women workers in March 1966, nearly 3 out of 5 were married and living with their husbands. (Table 4) Twenty-three percent were single, 9 percent were widowed, 6 percent were divorced, and 6 percent were married but not living with their husbands.

Labor force participation was highest among divorced women (71 percent) and lowest among widows (28 percent). More than 1 out of 3 married women living with their husbands were workers.

In March 1966, 9.9 million women workers had children under 18 years of age. (Table 5) Almost 6.1 million had children 6 to 17 years of age (none under 6), 1.7 million had children 3 to 5 years of age (none under 3), and 2.1 million had children under 3 years of age. Labor force participation was highest among mothers with school-age children only (47 percent) and lowest among mothers with children under 3 years of age (23 percent).

1/ All figures relate to annual averages unless otherwise indicated.

Educational Attainment

Women in the labor force in March 1966 had slightly more education than did all women in the population. (Table 6) The median years of school completed by women 18 years of age and over in the labor force and in the population were 12.3 years and 12.1 years, respectively.

Less than 1 out of 10 women in the labor force had fewer than 8 years of schooling, more than 6 out of 10 had graduated from high school, and 1 out of 10 had 4 years or more of college.

The median years of school completed by women employed as professional and technical workers was 16 years. (Table 7) Among women nonfarm managers, officials, and proprietors, clerical workers, sales workers, and craftsmen and foremen, the medians were more than 12 years. Educational attainment of women workers was lowest among operatives (10.4 years) and private-household workers (8.9 years).

Occupations

About 8.5 million women were employed in clerical jobs in 1966. (Table 8) Of these, more than 3 million were working as stenographers, typists, and secretaries. The next two largest major occupational groups among employed women were operatives and service workers (except private-household). Nearly 4.1 million were employed in each of these two occupational classifications. Another 3.5 million were professional and technical workers. Of these, more than 1.4 million were teachers (except college), and 900,000 were medical and other health workers. In contrast, less than 300,000 were craftsmen and foremen, and about 100,000 were nonfarm laborers.

Women predominated among teachers (except college), clerical workers, private-household workers, and waitresses and cooks. They were only a small percentage of the craftsmen and foremen, nonfarm laborers, and farmers and farm managers.

Industries

Of the 25.6 million women employed in March 1966, 10.9 million were in service industries. (Table 9) They accounted for more than 2 out of 5 of all women workers. Numerically the service industries were followed by manufacturing (5.2 million) and retail trade (4.6 million). Women's employment in the remaining industries totaled 4.9 million.

In March 1966 the proportion women were of all workers was highest in personal services (76 percent) and professional and related services (61 percent), and lowest in mining (4 percent) and construction (5 percent).

The industries in which 250,000 or more women were employed in October 1966 are shown in table 10. Among these industries, women were more than half of all employees in banking, apparel and related products

manufacturing, general merchandise stores, eating and drinking places, apparel and accessories stores, medical and other health services, personal services, and telephone communication.

Full-Time and Part-Time Job Status

About 3 out of 4 women workers were on full-time schedules in 1966, as compared with 9 out of 10 men workers. (Table 11) Most of the women who worked part time did so voluntarily.

Work Experience

Nearly half of all women 14 years of age and over in the population worked at some time in 1965. (Table 12) They numbered 33.8 million. However, only 39 percent of these worked full time year round. By marital status, the proportions who had work experience were 55 percent among single women, 46 percent among married women (husband present), and 45 percent among women who were divorced, widowed, or separated. But the latter group were the most likely to work full time year round--half of them did so in 1965.

Wage or Salary Income

The median wage or salary income of year-round full-time women workers in 1965 was $3,823. (Table 13) This was only 60 percent of the median wage or salary income of year-round full-time men workers ($6,375). About 40 percent of all women with wage or salary income were year-round full-time workers.

Of the women with wage or salary income in 1965, 62 percent received less than $3,000. This compares with only 30 percent of the men. At the upper end of the scale, only 4 percent of the women but 30 percent of the men had annual wage or salary incomes of $7,000 or more.

Among women working year round full time in 1965, the highest median wage or salary income was received by professional and technical workers ($5,574), followed by nonfarm managers, officials, and proprietors ($4,516) and clerical workers ($4,237). (Table 14) The lowest paid were private-household workers ($1,193).

Table 1.--Employment Status of Women, 1966 and 1965

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Employment status	Number (in thousands) 1966	1965	Percent distribution 1966	1965	As percent of total 1966	1965
Population 1/	71,345	70,183	100.0	100.0	52.7	52.6
Civilian labor force	27,780	26,621	38.9	37.9	36.1	35.2
Employed	26,426	25,145	37.0	35.8	35.7	34.8
Unemployed	1,354	1,476	1.9	2.1	45.5	42.7
Not in the labor force	43,565	43,562	61.1	62.1	74.8	75.3

1/ Excludes women in the Armed Forces, who numbered 34,000 in 1966 and 32,000 in 1965.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, January 1967 and 1966.

NOTE

Because of rounding, percentages in statistical tables do not necessarily add to total. The figures in these tables, unless otherwise noted, are annual averages.

Table 2.--Unemployment Rates, by Sex and Age, 1966 and 1965

(Persons 14 years of age and over)

Sex and age	1966	1965
Women:		
Total	4.9	5.5
14 to 19 years	13.0	14.3
20 years and over	3.8	4.5
Men:		
Total	3.3	4.0
14 to 19 years	11.2	13.1
20 years and over	2.5	3.2

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, January 1967 and 1966.

Table 3.--Labor Force Status of Women, by Age, 1966

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Age	Population	Labor force		
		Number	Percent distribution	As percent of woman population
Total	71,345,000	27,780,000	100.0	38.9
14 to 17 years	6,986,000	1,535,000	5.5	22.0
18 and 19 years	3,499,000	1,819,000	6.5	52.0
20 to 24 years	6,976,000	3,589,000	12.9	51.4
25 to 34 years	11,319,000	4,508,000	16.2	39.8
35 to 44 years	12,286,000	5,756,000	20.7	46.9
45 to 54 years	11,379,000	5,883,000	21.2	51.7
55 to 64 years	8,908,000	3,727,000	13.4	41.8
65 years and over	9,992,000	963,000	3.5	9.6
Median years of age	--	1/41		

1/ Median years of age is for April 1966.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, January 1967.

Table 4.--Marital Status of Women in the Labor Force, March 1966

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Marital status	Number	Percent distribution	As percent of woman population
Total	26,820,000	100.0	37.3
Single	6,106,000	22.8	40.8
Married (husband present)	15,178,000	56.6	35.4
Married (husband absent)	1/1,498,000	5.6	51.3
Widowed	2,449,000	9.1	27.6
Divorced	1,589,000	5.9	71.2

1/ Includes 147,000 wives whose husbands were absent in the Armed Forces.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Monthly Labor Review, April 1967.

Table 5.--Labor Force Status of Ever-Married Women, by Presence and Age of Children, March 1966

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Presence and age of children	Population	Labor force	
		Number	As percent of woman population
Total	56,847,000	20,714,000	36.4
Mothers with children under 18 years	27,507,000	9,850,000	35.8
With children 6 to 17 years only	12,987,000	6,043,000	46.5
With children under 6 years 1/	14,520,000	3,807,000	26.2
With no children under 3 years 1/	5,460,000	1,747,000	32.0
With children under 3 years 1/	9,060,000	2,060,000	22.7
Women without children under 18 years	29,340,000	10,864,000	37.0

1/ May also have older children.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Monthly Labor Review, April 1967.

Table 6.--Educational Attainment of the Population and Labor Force, by Sex, March 1966

(Persons 18 years of age and over)

Years of school completed	Population 1/		Labor force	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Number	64,034,000	56,688,000	25,602,000	46,356,000
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No school years completed	1.4	1.4	.4	.7
Elementary school:				
1 to 4 years	3.3	4.7	1.7	3.3
5 to 7 years	8.8	9.6	6.2	8.2
8 years	12.5	13.8	9.5	12.4
High school:				
1 to 3 years	19.5	18.4	18.4	19.3
4 years	37.1	29.5	43.0	32.6
College:				
1 to 3 years	10.2	11.0	11.0	10.7
4 years	5.2	6.8	6.7	7.6
5 years or more	1.9	4.7	3.2	5.2
Median years of school completed	12.1	12.1	12.3	12.2

1/ Refers to the civilian noninstitutional population.

Source: Manpower Report of the President and A Report on Manpower Requirements, Resources, Utilization, and Training by the United States Department of Labor, April 1967

Table 7.--Educational Attainment of Employed Persons, by Selected Major Occupational Group and Sex, March 1966

(Persons 18 years of age and over)

Selected major occupational group	Median years of school completed	
	Women	Men
Total	12.3	12.2
Professional, technical, kindred workers	16.2	16.4
Managers, officials, proprietors (except farm)	12.5	12.7
Clerical, kindred workers	12.5	12.5
Sales workers	12.2	12.7
Craftsmen, foremen, kindred workers	12.1	11.8
Operatives, kindred workers	10.4	10.9
Service workers (except private-household)	11.5	11.3
Private-household workers	8.9	(1/)

1/ Median not shown for occupational group with fewer than 100,000 workers.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Monthly Labor Review, June 1967.

Table 8.--Occupations of Employed Women, 1966

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Type of worker and occupation	Number	Percent distribution	As percent of total employed
Total	26,426,000	100.0	35.7
White-collar workers:			
Professional, technical workers	3,476,000	13.2	37.3
Medical, other health workers	901,000	3.4	59.8
Teachers (except college)	1,425,000	5.4	70.5
Other professional, technical workers	1,150,000	4.4	19.8
Managers, officials, proprietors (except farm)	1,166,000	4.4	15.7
Salaried workers	728,000	2.8	15.5
Self-employed workers (retail trade)	278,000	1.1	22.0
Self-employed workers (except retail trade)	160,000	.6	11.0
Clerical workers	8,477,000	32.1	71.6
Stenographers, typists, secretaries	3,035,000	11.5	98.3
Other clerical workers	5,442,000	20.6	62.1
Sales workers	1,883,000	7.1	39.6
Blue-collar workers:			
Craftsmen, foremen	256,000	1.0	2.7
Operatives	4,082,000	15.4	29.4
Nonfarm laborers	110,000	.4	3.0
Service workers:			
Private-household workers	2,189,000	8.3	97.3
Service workers (except private-household)	4,074,000	15.4	54.8
Waitresses, cooks, bartenders	1,424,000	5.4	71.0
Other service workers	2,650,000	10.0	48.8
Farm workers:			
Farmers, farm managers	124,000	.5	5.9
Farm laborers, foremen	589,000	2.2	33.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, January 1967.

Table 9.--Major Industry Groups of Employed Women, March 1966

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Industry	Number	Percent distribution	As percent of total employed
Total	25,630,000	100.0	35.6
Services	10,888,000	42.5	60.5
Professional and related	6,368,000	24.8	61.0
Personal	3,850,000	15.0	76.4
Business and repair	493,000	1.9	25.4
Entertainment and recreation	177,000	.7	31.5
Manufacturing	5,202,000	20.3	26.0
Retail trade	4,605,000	18.0	41.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1,592,000	6.2	47.8
Public administration	1,170,000	4.6	31.0
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	836,000	3.3	18.1
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	576,000	2.2	14.7
Wholesale trade	545,000	2.1	21.4
Construction	195,000	.8	4.5
Mining	21,000	.1	4.1

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Current Population Reports, P-60, No. 51.

Table 10.--Industries Employing 250,000 or More Women, October 1966

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Industry	Employed women	
	Number	As percent of total employed
Finance, insurance, and real estate:		
Banking	512,100	62
Insurance carriers	449,900	50
Government:		
Local	3,108,500	49
State	881,300	40
Federal	619,000	24
Manufacturing:		
Apparel and related products	1,133,800	80
Women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear	356,400	83
Men's and boys' furnishings	312,800	85
Electrical equipment and supplies	816,300	41
Food and kindred products	482,400	26
Textile mill products	432,200	45
Printing, publishing and allied industries	318,000	30
Retail trade:		
General merchandise stores	1,386,500	69
Department stores	866,500	68
Limited price variety stores	265,500	80
Eating and drinking places	1,171,800	57
Food stores	533,900	34
Grocery, meat, and vegetable stores	433,400	31
Apparel and accessories stores	434,800	65
Services, miscellaneous:		
Medical and other health services	1,808,800	79
Hospitals	1,200,700	81
Personal services	614,000	60
Laundry, cleaning, and dyeing plants	368,900	66
Educational services	483,400	45
Higher education	251,600	39
Miscellaneous business services	427,500	34
Hotels, tourist courts, and motels	292,100	50
Transportation and public utilities:		
Communication	468,400	50
Telephone	434,900	55
Wholesale trade	805,000	23

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, February 1967.

Table 11.--Full-Time and Part-Time Job Status of Workers in Nonagricultural Industries, by Sex, 1966

(Persons 14 years of age and over)

Job status	Women	Men
Number	24,165,000	42,216,000
Percent	100.0	100.0
On full-time schedule 1/	74.3	91.0
On part-time schedule 2/	25.7	9.0
For economic reasons 3/	3.5	2.2
Usually work full time	1.4	1.3
Usually work part time	2.0	.9
For other reasons (usually work part time)	22.2	6.8

1/ Worked 35 hours or more a week.
2/ Worked less than 35 hours a week.
3/ Slack work, job changing during the week, material shortages, inability to find full-time work, etc.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment and Earnings, January 1967.

Table 12.--Work Experience of Women in 1965, by Marital Status

(Women 14 years of age and over)

Work experience	Total	Marital status		
		Single	Married (husband present)	Other 1/
Number	33,767,000	8,110,000	19,561,000	6,096,000
Percent with work experience	47.6	55.3	45.8	45.0
	Percent distribution			
Total with work experience	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Worked at full-time jobs 2/				
50 to 52 weeks	38.8	34.5	36.9	50.3
27 to 49 weeks	14.4	8.7	16.2	16.2
1 to 26 weeks	15.4	17.2	15.8	11.4
Worked at part-time jobs 3/	31.5	39.5	31.0	22.1

1/ Widowed, divorced, or separated or husband absent for other reasons.
2/ Worked 35 hours or more a week.
3/ Worked less than 35 hours a week.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics: Special Labor Force Report No. 76.

Table 13.--Wage or Salary Income of Workers in 1965, by Sex

(Persons 14 years of age and over)

	Women	Men
WAGE OR SALARY INCOME RECIPIENTS		
Number	29,540,000	46,376,000
Percent of population	41.6	71.7
Median wage or salary income	$2,098	$5,194
Percent distribution		
Income range	100.0	100.0
Under $1,000	33.6	15.5
$1,000 to $1,999	14.8	7.0
$2,000 to $2,999	13.7	7.1
$3,000 to $3,999	13.6	8.5
$4,000 to $4,999	10.0	9.6
$5,000 to $6,999	9.9	22.6
$7,000 to $9,999	3.7	19.6
$10,000 and over	.7	10.0
YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME WORKERS		
Percent of wage or salary income recipients	39.8	66.3
Median wage or salary income	$3,823	$6,375
Women's wage or salary income as percent of men's	60.0	

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Current Population Reports, P-60, No. 51.

Table 14.--Median Wage or Salary Income of Workers in 1965, by Selected Major Occupational Group and Sex

(Persons 14 years of age and over)

Selected major occupational group	All workers		Year-round full-time workers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Professional, technical, kindred workers	$4,690	$7,572	$5,574	$8,233
Managers, officials, proprietors (except farm)	3,585	8,175	4,516	8,658
Clerical, kindred workers	3,535	5,592	4,237	6,220
Sales workers	2,034	5,912	3,003	7,083
Craftsmen, foremen, kindred workers	3,344	6,355	3,924	6,742
Operatives, kindred workers	2,742	5,179	3,282	5,752
Service workers (except private-household)	1,671	3,691	2,784	4,886
Private-household workers	594	(1/)	1,193	(1/)

1/ Median not shown for occupational group with fewer than 150,000 workers.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census: Current Population Reports, P-60, No. 51.

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